# United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit



### **REPLY BRIEF**

# 75-1216 Res

Lawrence H. Levner, Esq.

#### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appelle,

-V-

ANTONIO REYES,

Appellant.

REPLY BRIEF

Lawrence H. Levner Attorney for Appellant Antonio Reyes 521 Fifth Avenue New York N.Y. 10017 MU 7 4640



TO BE ARGUED BY
LAWRENCE H. LEVNER, ESQ.

REPLY BRIEF FOR APPELLANT ANTONIO REYES

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ANTONIO REYES,
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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT
DOCKET NO. 75-1216

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Appellee,

-against-

ANTONIO REYES, et al.,

Appellant.

BRIEF OF APPELLANT, ANTONIO REYES

STATEMENT OF ISSUES PRESENTED FOR A REVIEW

A Sentence may be reviewed when there are procedural irregularities in its imposition and where the Court has been misinformed as to the defendant's prior criminal history.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This is a supplemental brief in support of the defendant ANTONIO REYES' appeal from the final judgment of the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York (Brieant, J.) entered on June 6, 1975 after a jury trial convicted the defendant-appellant ANTONIO REYES hereinafter called the Appellant and another of conspiring to violate the narcotics law (Count 1) and of the substantive offenses of possession with intent to distribute narcotic drugs (Counts 2 and 3), all in violation of the law of the United States of America.

The Appellant was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 years to be followed by three years special parole (R. 411). \*

at the imposition of sentence the Court relied upon the following information in making a determination as to the length of said sentence. The defendant has been supported by welfare for the past six or seven years. His wife and children are also receiving welfare. That's what it says." (R. 409).

The Court also stated at time of sentence that this man is a man 37 years of age. You are married. You have a family, and this is your eleventh criminal conviction in the past 14 years." (R.410). The Court also stated an imposition of sentence"that you also have a couple open cases which haven't been determined in Bronx County. And while it is true you have eliminated or disposed of your drug habits, the Court regards you as a chronic offender, I am quoting the words of Mr. Dean (Probation Officer) herein his evaluation that your past performance gives little reason to believe that you would function in a law abiding fashion, you had the c ontacts, the ability to put Mr. Rodriguez in touch with drugs, and I don't find you to be a significant drug dealer in your own right. You certainly were not the main target of this particular investigation, but the fact is that your conduct represents a very serious threat to society. Both the Probation Officer and the Court believe that your conduct warrants an extended term of imprisonment, and your past conduct gives little reason to believe that you are going to do anythetter inthe future." (R.410 and 411).

that the State will be fair with you in connection with such open matters as you may have. I am not considering any suggestions of guilt as to those matters whatever in the imposition of sentence, but I am relying on numerous prior convictions that are listed herein the probation report which indicate basically your involvement of a life of crime."

(R.411)

It is apparent from reading the record of the court's imposition of sentence (R.402 to R. 413), that the court was influenced by a probation report and the actual trial and subsequent conviction of this defendant for the crimes charged.

The probation report was based upon information supplied by the United States Attorney's Office to wit, a New York City Police Department Criminal record of the Appellant and United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation arrest and conviction sheet.

The defendant's criminal record supplied by the Police Department of the City of New York and made Exhibits "A" and "B" contains tro pages and alleges eighteen arrests and eight convictions. Each conviction is for misdemeanor offenses committed within the State of New York from 1961 up until

June 6, 1969. The imposition of sentences vary from suspended sentence and time served to incarceration for a period of eight months.

A reading of the New York Penal Code which was applicable at the time of the arrest conviction alluded to in Exhibits "A" and "B" indicating the following convictions.

722-6 of the Penal Law alleges an individual who interferes with any person and any place by jostling against such person or unnecessarily crowding him or by placing a hand in the proximity of such persons pocket, pocketbook or handbook; or who stations himself in any place or follows or accosts any person for the purpose of obtaining money or other property from said person by any trick, artifice, swindle, confidence game or in any other legal manner;

722-3 of the Penal Law where a defendant congregates with others on a public street and refuses to move when ordered by the police:

Any person who with intent to revoke a breach of the peace, or thereby a breach of the peace may be occasioned, commits any of the following acts shall be deemed to have

committed the offense of disorderly conduct.

According to Exhibit "A" the defendant was convicted on three separate occasions of disorderly conduct.

The defendant's other convictions in 1961 was for petty larceny a misdemeanor, for petty larceny in 1966 a misdemeanor and again for grand larceny in the third degree a misdemeanor in 1969.

The other charge which the defendant received a sentence of time served was had in July of 1962 was for a violation of the Public Health Law, Section 3305 which was a misdemeanor.

The above convictions of the defendant pursuant to Exhibits "A" and "B" indicate no misdemeanor or felony convictions since June 6, 1969 up until the time of imposition of sentence in this present case.

The defendant has not maintained himself for a period of six years in the position of a chronic offender, but rather at worst, a welfare recipient.

The arrest and conviction sheet supplied by United

States Government to the Department of Probation for this

defendant's previous arrests and conviction and labelled

Exhibits "L", "M", "N" indicate a series of seven convictions

at best all for misdemeanor violations, none occurring after

June of 1969.

An examination of the two arrest and conviction records, one supplied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the other supplied by the Police Department of the City of New York indicate a variance as to the number of convictions this defendant has had.

Not only does the variance exist as to the number of convictions but as to the individual who was in fact arrested. The following names appear in said arrest records of the City and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Jose Torres, Antonio Reyes, Epifiano Astrada, Epifino Ortiz, Antonio Rios Reyes, Antonio Reyes Rios and Jose L. Torres.

Are all these individual names that of this defendantappellant.

A thorough examination of the Criminal Court records of the City of New York, County of Bronx was had by the defendant-appellant's attorney with the assistance of the Chief Clerk of the Criminal Court in searching the records of the Special Sessions Court of the City of New York, County of Bronx Exhibits 1 through 6 are certified certificates of disposition. The only accurate and first-hand history of this alleged defendant's violations and convictions which can

be documented by the arrest books and disposition books of that Courthouse.

The certified certificates of disposition indicate that this defendant was arrested on six separate occasions during the period of 1961 up until 1969. Those certificates of disposition indicate the following.

Docket No. SS1117-1961, convicted of petty larceny sentence 60 days.

Docket No.3716/1962, convicted of possession of a hypodermic needle, sentence, time served.

Docket No. 853344/1965, charged with grand larceny dismissed 8/24/65.

Docket No. B1240/1966, convicted of petty larceny **99** days suspended sentence.

Docket No. A5719 of 1969, convicted of grand larcemy sentence eight months.

Docket No. A345/1964, convicted of Section 722-6 of the Penal Code - sentence three months.

These are the only accurate and true records of the arrests and convictions of this defendant presently being held in the Bronx County Courthouse located at Washington Avenue, Bronx, New York. Any other references to this de-

fendant in the United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation arrest and conviction sheet and the arrest and conviction sheet of this defendantheld by the Police Department of the City of New York (Exhibits "A" and "B" and Exhibits "L", "M", "N" cannot readily be documented nor can said criminal records supply to the court and the Department of Probation be relied upon in view of the annexed exhibits 1 through 6 which should negate the "RAP Sheet" supplied to the Department of Probation. The arrest and conviction sheet supplied to the Department of Probation indicate numerous arrests. It must be noted that it is the, and has been, the practice to list precinct arrests as part of the defendant's criminal history even though no further action was had upon those charges. The criminal record for arrests and convictions do not necessarily indicate defendant's appearances in Court but rather include defendant's appearances in court and precinct arrests.

The Court through the probation report took no notice of the defendant's lack of criminal activity for the past six years and the time of his present conviction.

#### ARGUMENT

THE SENTENCE IMPOSED UPON THIS
DEFENDANT VIOLATED HIS CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM CRUEL AND UNUSUAL
PUNISHMENT AND WAS AN ABUSE OF JUDICIAL
DISCRETION BASED UPON MISINFORMATION HAD
AND RELIED UPON AT THE DISTRICT COURT UPON
THE DEFENDANT'S SENTENCE.

Since the above exhibits indicate procedural irregularities in the imposition of sente. 2 this Court may review same. Dorszynski v. United States, 418 U.S. 424, 441, (1974): United States v. Wiley, Slip.Op.5211, 5216-17 (Second Cir., July 29, 1975): United States v. Tramunti, 513 F.2d 1087, 1120 (2nd Cir.1975): United States v. Malcolm, 432 F.2d 809, 814-15 (2nd Cir. 1970). The above cases cited by the Appellant do stand for the proposition that this Court may review an improperly directed sentence.

THE DEFENDANTS SENTENCE WAS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL WHEN COMPARED TO THOSE OF HIS 5 CO-DEFENDANTS

Mr. Justice Brennan found a common thread in previous

Supreme Court Decisions holding particular punishment to be

cruel and unusual ir that each was "degrading to human dignity,"

a concept first applied in an Eighth Amendment setting in Trop

v. Dulles, 356 U. S. 86, 100 (1958). Finally, the opinion of

Mr. Justice Brennan set forththis test:

The test, then, will ordinarily be a cumlative one; If a punishment is unusually severe, if there is a strong probability that it is inflicted arbitrarily, if it is substantially rejected by contemporary society, and if there is no reason to believe that it serves any penal purpose more effectively than sum less severe punishment, then the continued infliction of that punishment violates the command of the clause that the State may not inflict inhuman and uncivilized punishments upon those convicted of crimes. Furman v. Georgia 408 U.S.238 (1972).

The Defendant although convicted played the most minor role in the conspiracy. The penalty exacted of this defendant portrays him as a major narcotics distributor rather than what he in fact was.

The legislative intent of this Statute was to prevent the importation and distribution of drugs within these United States. It was directed at the major dealers not the Antonio Reyes of this world.

The sentence of this defendant is so disproportionate to the others so as to constiute cruel and unsual punishment.

#### CONCLUSION

FOR ALL THE FOREGOING REASONS, THE SENTENCE OF THE TRIAL COURT SHOULD BE VACATED AND THE APPELLANT SHOULD BE RESENTENCED.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence H. Levner Attorney for Defendant-Appellant

BUREAU OF POLICE DEPARTMENT PRISONER'S CRIMINAL RECORD CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATIO CITY OF NEW YORK 5.5. 24 (REV. 3.60) B# 519 805 Untonio Ruiz Epifiano Estrada Ortiz NAME . Antonio Reyes Rios, Antonio Reyes, Jose Torres 939319 This certifies that the finger impressions of the above named person have been D.C.I.# -.....475 ( compared and the following is a true copy of the records of this bureau. F.B.I. # \_ Arresting Date, Disposition Borough or n' CHARGENEO Officer Tree Date of Miller NAME. :3/21/60 · 60 di Att. Pet . Lard . Black. Bronx Antonio Ruiz 3/1/61 S.S. Galloway, 42 Sqd. Sess. P.D. Puerto Antonio Reyes Rios 112/2/61 Rico Spec , Sess, 8/14, .. Coyle 3305 PHL &. Jose L. Torres Bronx 7/24/62 Doc.#3716 3305 1 41 Pct. 1747d PL. 8/24/62 Time Se Martinis, . 4/23/63 6 Most McKenna 722-6 PL Bronx Antonio Reyes Bottligleeri-C: 4/6/63 PP&C Sqd. 1/22/64 3 Mos! O'Brien 722-6 PL Bronx Antonio Reyes Breslin, Crim, C 1/18/54 PP&C Sqd. 3 Mos. D.J . . . 722-3 PL . NYC Antonio Reyes X2/17/64 (Congregating) 9-29-65 Dismi Gr. Larc. Simone . Bronx Antonio Reyes 8/23/65 PP&C 2928-40 2-21-66 Crock Coyne Pat Laro Doc#1240 Bromm Antonio Reyes 41 Sqc. \*2..20-66 3-4-63 Morgal Fugitive Antonio Rios Reyes Bronx 3-11-66 47 Sqd (Warrant) - 1004-41 Hoffman Burglary Bronx Epifiano E. Ortiz 12-5-66 41st Pct 4881-41 Colle Antonio Reyes & BRonx Gr Larc . 48 : Pct 8-10-37 2154-48. Record prepared on-Date SXAIBIT A

Signature

BCI

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Antonio Reyes	Bronx 6345-48	PL155.30-1 G/L/A-3	Schwab 48	
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Antonio Reyes	Bronx 1756- 48	225.15PI Poss Gan Rec.	Williamb 46 Po	ms.
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	<b>i</b>			

g or divulging such information for other than official use ion of low and will be prosecuted accordingly.

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The COMMANDING OFFICER, IDENTIFICATION SECTION, certifies that the fingerprints of the above named person have been compared and, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, the foregoing is a true copy of the records of this section.

EXHIBIT

TO ACTUAL TO THE ACTUAL CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

WASHINGTON 25 D.G.

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER475 052 E

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77 77 Y	#163 5535	4-23-63	722-6 jostling	6 mos
DD MA MA	Anthonio Reyes	1-18-64	722 PL sub 6 jostling	
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. DO NA NA	Antonio Reyes #519805	8-23-65	GL (from auto)	
YN YN C	Antonio Rios Reyes #B519805	3-11-66	fugitive - Puerto Rico	
Crim Crt NY :	Antonio Reyes - #627516	3-16-66	PI.	90 das WH SS
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77 YX CS	Epifiano Estrada #519805	12-5-66	burg	
		12-7-66	burg to 405	4 mos
City of NY	#8690 X 2C-66			
WH Y Hart Isl NY NY	Epifino Ortiz		house 405	4 mos
	101 T			EXHIBITL

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

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Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being nossibly identical with subject of this record.

\*\*Description\*\*

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# CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION Nº 226611 Docket No. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK JUDGE I hereby certify that this is a true excerpt of the record on file in this Court.

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CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION Nº 226610
Docket No. 37/6 1962
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### CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION Nº 226609 Docket No. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK DISPOSITION COURT PART I hereby certify that this is a true excerpt of the record on file in this Court. Form CRC. 225.1-50M sets-531025(74) 346

### CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY\_OF\_NEW YORK

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CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION
Nº 226607
Docket No. 9 5719 19.69
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### CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK County of CERTIFICATE OF DISPOSITION Nº 226612 Docket No. ... THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK OF DISPOSITION AL COURT PART JUDGE I hereby certify that this is a true excerpt of the record on file in this Court. COURT OFFICIAL (Signature)

Form CRC. 225.1-50M sets-501025(74) 346